

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 stand canceled.

Claim 16 has been amended. The Amendment leaves claims 16-20 pending.

In the Advisory Action mailed November 17, 2006, in the continuation of clause 11, the Examiner notes:

Applicant argues as if he has claimed the concentric arrangement of the sleeves, the posts, and the bolts (as shown in his figure 7); however applicant has not claimed the bolts such that the examiner has used the bolts of GB '178 as the claimed posts. Applicant should consider amending claim 16 to also include the bolts extending through a hollow interior defined by the posts when filing an RCE.

The Examiner's comments are noted with appreciation.

Claim 16 has been amended to require that each post (50, 52) have a hollow interior, and to require a pair of bolts (62, 64), and that each bolt extend axially through the hollow interior of a respective post for applying the defined axial compression force, and further requiring that the respective sleeves, post and bolt be concentric, in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Consideration and allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

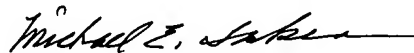
Appl. No. 10/629,433
Amendment dated December 4, 2006
Reply to Advisory Action of November 17, 2006

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 16-20, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP



Michael E. Taken
(Reg. No. 28,120)

100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 271-7590